

Appl. No. 10/699,388

Amdt. Dated September 6, 2005

Reply to Office action of June 6, 2005

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action mailed June 6, 2005.

Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited. Claims 1-5 and 7-20 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1, 9 and 16 being the independent claims. The above amendments have amended claims 1, 8, 15, and 19, and cancelled claim 6.

Claim Objections

Claims 8, 15 and 19 were objected to because of various informalities. Specifically, the Examiner stated that for claims 8, 15, and 19 that the phrase "one of a group consisting of" should be inserted after "comprise". Accordingly, applicants have amended claims 8, 15 and 19 to recite "comprises one of a group consisting of". Applicants thus submit that the objection has been overcome.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 2, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakai (U.S. Patent No.4,625,152, hereinafter "Nakai"). The Examiner stated that Nakai discloses a lamp driver system for selectively driving a first lamp and a second lamp, where the lamp driver system comprises a fault detector and an output steering device. With regard to claims 3-8, the Examiner objected to these claims as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner stated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Accordingly, applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of dependent claim 6. Thus, independent claim 1 now effectively comprises claim 6 written in independent form. Thus, applicants submit that amended independent claim 6 is allowable over the cited references. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-5 and 7-8 depend from, and include all the

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limitations of amended independent claim 1, they are also submitted to be patentably distinct over the cited references.

Applicants note that claims 9-20 were also allowed by the Examiner. Thus, applicants submit that claims 1-5 and 7-20 are now either in condition for allowance or have been previously allowed.

If any fees, including extension of time fees or additional claims fees, are due as a result of this response, please charge Ingrassia Fisher & Lorenz Deposit Account No. 50-2091. This authorization is intended to act as a constructive petition for an extension of time, should an extension of time be needed as a result of this response. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 6 Sept., 2005By: 

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